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# Role for Kilpatrick's fancy new lawyer not clear yet

BY JOE SWICKARD • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • FEBRUARY 4, 2009

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Willie Gary, Kwame Kilpatrick's latest out-of-town legal legend, speaks with a silver tongue and writes with golden ink, say attorneys who have gone up against the Florida trial lawyer who has made a fortune tackling big-name, deep-pocket defendants for huge verdicts.

But others say there's also a ration of bluster that accompanies a 61-year-old man who went from a childhood in southern migrant farm-worker communities to a thriving law firm on Florida's Gold Coast and a personal jet with gold-plated fixtures. He has won multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements.

What remains uncertain, however, is just what Gary -- braced against a Detroit winter with a fur-trim overcoat early Tuesday as his latest client left jail -- plans to do for Kilpatrick as the former mayor starts anew as a convicted felon looking to pay back \$1 million in restitution.

"Willie Gary brings a big reputation into town along with him," said University of Detroit Mercy law professor Larry Dubin. "And much of that reputation is established by his own words. ...

"What he could do -- maybe suing the jail or SkyTel for releasing the text messages -- I have no idea," Dubin said, referring to the telecommunications firm that turned over damaging text messages in a whistle-blower lawsuit.

Dubin is skeptical such a suit can succeed, given Kilpatrick's felony pleas and legal setbacks.

"I don't think Kwame Kilpatrick plays well in any courtroom," he said.

Gary wasn't tipping his hand as he spoke to reporters and cameras outside the jail early Tuesday. "We're not here at this point to say what's going to happen," he said.

Saying he instructed Kilpatrick to keep mum, Gary said: "Like it or not, I'm the new sheriff in town."

Gary's career has been profiled on "60 Minutes" and in "The New Yorker," while his waterfront mansion and twin Bentleys have been chronicled on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" and on his Web site, [www.williegary.com](http://www.williegary.com).



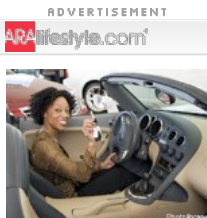
Willie Gary: Famous for having golden touch.

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But Gary has taken his lumps, as well.

His customized 32-passenger Boeing 737, called the Wings of Justice II, isn't swooping around these days. It's parked and available for lease in Stuart, Fla., said Kori Love, his firm's spokesman. His firm's main office is also in Stuart.

There's also a messy child-support case in Atlanta in which the Georgia Supreme Court ruled last year that Gary, who is married, should pay \$28,000 a month for twins born to another woman in 2000. The case was eventually settled.

Elizabeth Hardy, a Birmingham attorney, said Gary plays up the notion that once he arrives, corporations should "get the checkbook out."

But hoping to strike gold with Kilpatrick may be hard, she said. "Kilpatrick carries the baggage of his own misconduct," Hardy said.

But Anthony Comden, a Grand Rapids defense lawyer who faced Gary in a race discrimination case, said he is "not one to be underestimated."

"He knows how to talk to a jury. He can really tell a story that strikes home. When he speaks, people listen."

Detroit lawyer Dennis LaVasseur recalls Gary as "the only lawyer I ever saw hand a federal judge a promotional brochure" about his swanky law firm.

"He had a gold pen, too," he said. "It had golden, or at least gold-colored, ink."

Contact **JOE SWICKARD** at 313-222-8769 or [jswickard@freepress.com](mailto:jswickard@freepress.com)

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ImNoFool wrote:

Replying to Feedup:

*Not sure I understand this. Kilpatrick violated the law and pleaded guilty to at least two felonies. Now he's going to sue someone for publicizing the evidence that proved he was guilty? Of course this must mean, if the evidence had not been made public, Kwame wouldn't have been caught. Therefore; he'd still be the Mayor of Detroit and Monica Conyers wouldn't be Council President (a good thing). Sounds like the media just ruined a good, honest guy like Kwame very much like Synagro ruined those upstanding politicians in Detroit by forcing them to take bribes and tarnishing their careers, and reputations. If they get this chit to fly there ought to be a revolution!*

What a great storyline for a Soap Opera ... "The Dumb and the Reckless"

02/05/2009 12:03:33 a.m. EDT

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ImNoFool wrote:

Replying to rickserafino:

*What a ego this guy has along with is money. "A new sheriff in town???"*

LOL, Ricky!!! He probably thinks he's "WILLIE EARP!"

02/04/2009 11:56:48 p.m. EDT

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ImNoFool wrote:

Replying to dfobare:

I noticed yesterday that Karamonos' pr people did not respond to speculation that Kwame was going to work for Compuware in Dallas, where they apparently have a big operation. Until I hear a denial from them, I'm betting on Compuware.

COMPUWARE ,, NO WAY! Kwame says he "found God" while in jail. That translates to "Bishop T.D. Jakes" who happens to be based in Dallas TX. Everybody in the 'Hood' knows about that crooked preacher! He probably lined up a position for Kwame at one of his enterprises ... "Sunday Morning Stick-Ups, Inc." Now, back to the subject ... Willie "Vanilli" Gary. Mr. Gary may be a hot-shot lawyer, but he didn't have sense enough to practice "safe sex" like Kwame and Bill Clinton. The old geezer was so proud to get it up that he squirted out twins! OK, Willie ...Did you lose your VIAGRA lawsuit?

02/04/2009 11:01:09 p.m. EDT

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halfflight wrote:

Unbelievable.

This showboating egotist sounds like the perfect lawyer for KK. I wonder if KK will lie to him, too, and leave him hanging out to dry like he's done with his other lawyers?

On a positive note, at least he got Kwame to shut up.

02/04/2009 8:28:17 p.m. EDT

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